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RS 1617

(20)

Govt House - Hobart -

12th Oct. 1841

My dear Father

I have mentioned before the great loss we sustained a few weeks ago by the death of our excellent Archdeacon. I don't not know whether you may recollect that he once dined with us in Bedford Place together with Captain Hindmarsh, shortly before we embarked. I have desired Eleanor to copy for you the ^{an} inscription composed

by Mr Gell, ~~which~~ is placed
upon his tablet in the church
we usually attend.

I ~~have also sent~~ ^{am sending} you the in-
scription to be placed on another
monument, not funeral,
which Sir John is going to
erect in S. Australia to the
memory of his old commander
Flinders, whose father's widow
still lives at the advanced age
of 90 years. This old lady, Mr
Flinders, is Sir John's Aunt,
his Mother's Sister - Flinders
was one of the most distinguished
and deserving of our navigators,
and had he lived in the

present day would have
been loaded with honours.

Sir John was a little midshipman
of about 14 or 15 under him in
the Investigator and retains a
great veneration for his
memory. I fixed upon the
site of the monument when I
visited Spencer's Gulf in
S. Australia last January
and obtained from Colonel Gawler
that the site of the monument
on the top of the hill should be
made a Government reserve
for the purpose. The monument
is to be an Egyptian obelisk,
made of the iron stone of the

Enclosure No 3

spot, with some facings and
copings of pumistone. The
latter on being quarried here
will be shipped for S. Australia
to the care of the Surveyor
General, who has undertaken
to look after its erection -
The people of Port Lincoln in
Spencer's Gulf were highly di-
lighted at the thoughts of the
monument and promised to
help in its erection. I think
they expected it would cause
people to flock there to visit
it, in which however I suspect
they are mistaken - The in-
scription is composed by Mr.
Gell, slightly altered by Sir John.

We had yesterday some very agreeable letters from Captain Ross who is with the ships in the Bay of Islands near New Zealand. They left us in July for Sydney where they staid only 3 weeks, leaving it on the very day on which they announced that they should do so when they arrived, a circumstance which greatly amazed the Sydney people and discomfited all their projects of giving them entertainments. Neither the two Captains, nor the other officers liked Sydney nearly so much as this place, and they seem to have made the Sydney people quite jealous. I must copy for your amusement a passage from Captain

Ross's letter curiously illustrates
of this - Captain Ross writes, -
"We returned by land and cer-
tainly I never saw roads in so
wretched a state - we were
several times nearly over - it
would have been laughable
enough if he (Sir George Gipps)
had got lapsedized whilst shewing
off the beauty of the country
and its highly improved
condition, he did not admire.
Some remarks I made on the
subject, especially when I spoke
of our Tasmanian roads. he
pretended not to understand
where I meant and this made
me always in future make a
point of saying Tasmania,
whenever I could, and I always
won the battle most faithfully

at all their dinners and parties. Sir King and McLean seemed annoyed at the preference, particularly when speaking of the ~~proceedings~~ productions of the two countries, I said, we did not grow oranges, except in greenhouses in Tasmania. They could not stand it and always afterwards we of Tasmania became their watchword. Surely we never saw such little feelings of jealousy at Hobart, and I told them I believed it arose from their consciousness that Tasmania must eventually become the metropolis of the Southern Empire. — Our brief stay under extreme occupation together with most dismal

weather ^{which} we experienced nearly
the whole period prevented our
seeing much of the place. I
was not even in the town till
2 days before we left, except
driving through with Sir George
Gipps on our way from Parra-
matta in the dark, and I
must confess I was greatly
disappointed. The shops are
more numerous, larger and
more abundantly and elegantly
stocked than those of Hobart,
but the dilapidated, huge-looking
houses, the wretched condition
of the streets, the numerous
shells of warehouses half
built, left to wither in that
state and others that a
trifling repair might have,
left so crumble to pieces,

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evince a severe reaction of
bygone prosperity."

Such is Captain Ross's description
of Sydney and his preference
of our Tasmania. -

Your very affectionate daughter

(Signed) Jane Franklin.